



Nebraska State Accountability

**Grade 11
Reading
Mini-Test**

Name:

Directions:

On the following page is a passage and multiple-choice questions for Grade 11 Reading Mini-Test, a practice opportunity for the *Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)*.

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices.

For all questions:

- Read the passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.
- Mark your answers for ALL of the questions.

Remember only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

Oh, Canada

The border to Canada was not a **formidable** opponent when we started to trek north for our annual fishing trip. This would be the last year to enter this beautiful country without presenting a passport to the border guards under the red and white maple leaf flag. Our old, Caribbean-sea blue Suburban pulled through the passage lanes, we answered the woman behind the smoky glass that we were indeed the children of the driver and entering the country of our own accord, and we settled in for the rest of the journey. The beauty of this country's rocky countryside was an interesting contrast to the flat plains of our home in middle Nebraska.

My brothers and I gauged the amount of time it would take to reach Thunder Bay, Ontario, reminding each other of the mile-per-hour timing versus the kilometer-per-mile timing. We knew we were approaching this small city on the shores of Northern Lake Superior when we caught a whiff of the paper plant at the southern edge of the city limits. The **putrid** smell of wet wood being processed to paper was much worse than I remembered it to be. The results of this process permeated our car, the air, and my nose for several kilometers, and we breathed a sigh of true relief when the air cleared enough for us to breathe deeply again. We paused for a supper break and a view of Kakabeka Falls. Legend has it that if you listened carefully, you could hear the cry of the Ojibwa maiden as she cries for her lost love. The falls thundered in our ears as we crossed the man-made bridge to the other side, and for brief moments along the way I found myself feeling the thrill of momentary fear as my overactive mind took me over the bridge railing into the roaring waters in an imaginary fall.

- 3 We pulled ourselves away from the beauty of the falls and the bay and continued north. Thunder Bay held our interest for a bit more as this last highway of northern civilization led us past the Terry Fox monument marking his run across the country to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. We stopped at the lookout and gazed out at the huge pile of rock in the middle of the bay known as Sleeping Giant. The enormity of this rock brought to mind the idea of an iceberg, knowing that what we were seeing was only a small portion of the formation. We gathered ourselves and boarded the bright blue beast bearing our fishing and camping gear. Heading further north we took a winding highway around Lake Nipigon and through many small towns. The drive was long, but aside from the logging trucks that rumbled our ride, it was picture postcard beautiful. We watched for streams of water that flowed out of rocks upon the face of the high cliffs, and we tried to spot loons diving for their meals out on the lake. After what seemed to me to be a day's long travel, we passed through the last small town before reaching our camp. Where we were headed was only marked on local maps; the bound atlas that brought us this far now showed nothing but a road to nowhere. Goodbye television, telephone, and video games!

Finally, the destination I'd been waiting for! We unloaded the fishing poles, life jackets, water-proof bags, food, and tackle. Then we headed to the owner's office to purchase our five-day permit. By now the sun was setting on the horizon and the cry of loons told me it would soon be too dark to catch anything but black fly and mosquito bites. I took one last look at the lake and mentally challenged the elements to defy the master angler abilities I had acquired in my seventeen years. Walleye and northern pike beware! I climbed the wooden-plank stairs to the cabin, shook the sand off of my shoes, and declined the offer to sit up and talk for the next several hours. I wanted to get to bed and get to tomorrow. In the morning I would head out to a hidden lake found only by driving for an hour and a half on a logging road and begin my reason for enduring the long drive from Nebraska: fishing in the cold, clear waters of Canada.

READING SESSION 1

1. In the first sentence of the passage, what is the meaning of the word **formidable**?
 - A. difficult to overcome
 - B. weaker than usual
 - C. easy to defeat
 - D. average in ability

2. In this story, what is the main idea developed by the author?
 - A. Canada is more beautiful than Nebraska.
 - B. Canada is the best place to fish for walleye.
 - C. Canada's economy depends on American tourism.
 - D. Canada's natural beauty makes it a fascinating place to travel.

3. Which point of view did the author choose to write this story?
 - A. first person
 - B. second person
 - C. third person limited
 - D. third person omniscient

4. In paragraph 3, what does the author imply with the phrase, "Goodbye television, telephone, and video games!"?
 - A. The narrator is traveling to a dangerous location.
 - B. The narrator is traveling to a remote location.
 - C. The narrator has been grounded.
 - D. The narrator has become lost.

READING SESSION 1

5. Which word is a synonym for **putrid**?
- A. malodorous
 - B. petrified
 - C. permeated
 - D. formidable
6. What conflict does the narrator feel about the trip?
- A. The narrator detests the putrid smell but enjoys the Kakabeka Bridge.
 - B. The narrator misses the comforts of home but enjoys the scenery.
 - C. The narrator dreads the drive, but enjoys the traveling adventures.
 - D. The narrator worries about the drive, but enjoys being with his family.
7. Which event happened last in the story?
- A. The family saw the Terry Fox monument.
 - B. The family viewed Kakabeka Falls.
 - C. The family smelled the paper plant.
 - D. The family drove around Lake Nipigon.

Grade 11 Mini-Test Answers

1. A. difficult to overcome
2. D. Canada's natural beauty makes it a fascinating place to travel.
3. A. first person
4. B. The narrator is traveling to a remote location.
5. A. malodorous
6. C. The narrator dreads the drive, but enjoys the traveling adventures.
7. D. The family drove around Lake Nipigon.